NAXOS

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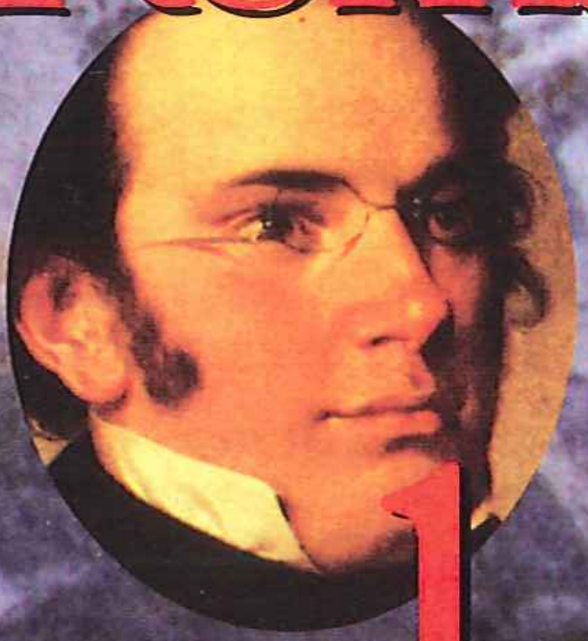
The Romantic Schubert



A CELEBRATION OF SCHUBERT'S MOST ROMANTIC MUSIC

The Romantic Schubert
Franz Schubert (1797 - 1828)

The son of a schoolmaster who had settled in Vienna, Franz Schubert was educated as a chorister of the imperial court chapel and later qualified as a schoolteacher, briefly and thereafter intermittently joining his father in the classroom. He spent his life largely in Vienna, enjoying the company of friends, but never holding any position in the musical establishment or attracting the kind of patronage that Beethoven had twenty years earlier. His final years were clouded by illness, as the result of a syphilitic infection, and he died in 1828, leaving much unfinished. His gifts had been most notably expressed in song, his talent for melody always evident in his other compositions. Schubert's compositions are generally numbered according to the Deutsch catalogue, with the letter D.

Stage Works

Schubert wrote operas, German operas or Singspiel and incidental music for the theatre. His best known compositions of this kind include the music for the unsuccessful play Rosamunde, Fürstin von Zypern (Rosamunde, Princess of Cyprus), mounted at the Theater an der Wien in December 1823. The ballet music and entracte from Rosamunde are particularly well known.

Recommended Recording
Rosamunde: Ballet Music No. 2
Naxos 8.550145

Orchestral Music

The Unfinished Symphony of Schubert was written in 1822, but no addition was made to the two movements of the work. Other symphonies of the eight more or less completed include the Great C major Symphony and the charming and classical Fifth Symphony. His various Overtures include two "in the Italian style".

Recommended Recordings
Symphonies Nos. 1 & 2
Naxos 8.553093

Symphonies Nos. 3 & 6
Naxos 8.553094

Symphony No. 4 "Tragic" D. 417 / Symphony in C Major
Naxos 8.553095

Symphonies Nos. 5 & 8 "Unfinished"
Naxos 8.550145

Symphony No. 9 "Great"
Naxos 8.553096

Chamber Music

Of Schubert's various string quartets the Quartet in A minor, with its variations on the well known Rosamunde theme and the Quartet in D minor, Death and the Maiden, with variations on the song of that name, are the most familiar. The Piano Quintet "Die Forelle" (The Trout) includes a movement of variations on that song, while the great C major String Quintet of 1828 is of unsurpassable beauty. The two Piano Trios and the single movement Notturno date from the same year. Schubert's Octet, for clarinet, horn, bassoon, two violins, viola, cello and double bass was written early in 1824. To the violin sonatas (sonatinas) of 1816 may be added the more ambitious Duo for violin and piano, D. 574, of the following year, and the Fantasy, D. 934, published in 1828, the year of Schubert's death. The Arpeggione Sonata was written for a newly devised and soon obselete stringed instrument, the Arpeggione. It now provides additional repertoire for the cello or viola.

Recommended Recordings

Violin Sonatas (Sonatinas), D. 348, D. 385 & D. 408 / Fantasy, D. 934
Naxos 8.550420

Piano Trios D. 898 & D. 28
Naxos 8.550131

Arpeggione Sonata D. 821
Naxos 8.550654

Piano Trio, D. 929 / Notturno, D. 897
Naxos 8.550132

String Quintet, D. 956 / String Trio, D. 581
Naxos 8.550388

Piano Quintet "Trout" / Adagio and Rondo concertante, D. 487
Naxos 8.550658

Octets D. 872 & D. 803
Naxos 8.550389

String Quartets "Death and the Maiden", D. 810 & D. 703
Naxos 8.550590

String Quartets (Complete) Vol. 2
No. 10 in E Flat, D. 87 & No. 13 in A Minor, D. 804, "Rosamunde"
Naxos 8.550591

Piano Music

Schubert's compositions for piano include a number of sonatas as well as the Wanderer Fantasia and two sets of Impromptus, D. 899 and D. 935. He also wrote a number of dances for piano, waltzes, Ländler and German dances. His music for piano duet includes a Divertissement à l'hongroise, marches and polonaises.

Recommended Recordings

Impromptus, D. 899 and D. 935
Naxos 8.550260

Moments musicaux, D. 780 / Allegretto, D. 915 / Drei Klavierstücke, D. 946
Naxos 8.550259

Piano Sonatas D. 537 & D. 664 / Fantasy (Wandererfantasie)
Naxos 8.550846

Piano Sonatas D. 958 and D. 960
Naxos 8.550475

Piano Sonatas D. 784 and D. 894
Naxos 8.550730

Piano Works for Four Hands: Lebensstürme, D. 947
Deux marches caractéristiques, D. 886 / Divertissement à la hongroise, D. 818
Naxos 8.550555

8.552215

STEREO

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1	**Symphony No. 8 in B Minor, D. 759 "Unfinished" - Andante con moto** – Slovak Philharmonic / Michael Halász (from Naxos 8.550145)	(11:05)
2	**Impromptu No. 3 in G Flat Major, D. 899** - Jenő Jandó, Piano (from Naxos 8.550260)	(5:01)
3	**Moment Musical No. 2 in A Flat Major, D. 780** - Jenő Jandó, Piano (from Naxos 8.550259)	(6:01)
4	**Piano Quintet in A Major, D. 667 "Trout" - Andante** – Jenő Jandó, Piano / Members of the Kodály Quartet with István Tóth, Double Bass (from Naxos 8.550658)	(7:33)
5	**Impromptu No. 2 in A Flat Major, D. 935** – Jenő Jandó, Piano (from Naxos 8.550260)	(7:17)
6	**Ballet Music No. 2 from Rosamunde, D. 797** - Slovak Philharmonic / Michael Halász (from Naxos 8.550145)	(7:50)
7	**Leise flehen meine Lieder (Ständchen), D. 957 No. 4 (arr. Liszt)** - Balázs Szokolay, Piano (from Naxos 8.550053)	(5:34)
8	**Symphony No. 3 in D Major, D. 200 - Allegretto** - Failoni Orchestra, Budapest / Michael Halász (from Naxos 8.553094)	(4:24)
9	**Moment Musical No. 6 in A Flat Major, D. 780** - Jenő Jandó, Piano (from Naxos 8.550259)	(6:13)
10	**String Quintet in C Major, D. 956 - Adagio** – Ensemble Villa Musica (from Naxos 8.550388)	(15:03)

(Playing Time: 76:01)

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